

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/697,182

Examiner

Oanh L. Duong

Applicant(s)

UJIGAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/26/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
HOSAIN ALAM  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/26/2004 has been entered.

## **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicants' argument is persuasive. See Applicant Arguments or Remarks dated July 26, 2004, page 8 lines 19-34.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark J. Henry on 11/04/2004

The application has been amended as follows:

The title of the invention is changed to: **"System and Method for Distributing and Collecting Information between a Server and a Plurality of Clients by Merging a Communication Block from a Final Client of Each Circulation Destination in Each of a Plurality of Groups"**.

The claims are amended as follow:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information collection and distribution system for collecting and distributing information between a server and a plurality of clients which are connected to a network,

wherein the server transmits a communication [[blocks]] block including at least addresses of the plurality of clients and pieces of distribution information to one client of the plurality of clients through said network;

said one client partitions all the other clients into a plurality of groups and relays the communication [[blocks]] block to one client in each of the plurality of groups;

said one client in each of said plurality of [[client]] groups obtains the distribution information from the communication [[blocks]] block, and circulates the communication

[[blocks]] block in which distribution results are set to a client next in [[the]] an order on [[the]] a basis of [[the]] destination addresses;

a final client of a last circulation destination which has received the pieces of distribution information last in each of said plurality of groups transmits the communication block to said one client that has partitioned the clients into groups; and

said one client that has partitioned the clients into groups merges the communication block from said final client of each circulation destination in each of said plurality of groups to form a merged communication block and relays the merged communication block to said server.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information collection and distribution system for collecting and distributing information between a server and a plurality of clients which are connected with a network,

wherein said server transmits a communication block including at least addresses of the plurality of clients to one client of the plurality of clients through the network;

said one client partitions all the other clients into a plurality of groups and relays the communication block to one client in each of the plurality of groups;

said one client in each of said plurality of groups sets pieces of collection information in the communication block, sets a collection result in the communication block, and circulates the communication block to a next client in an order based on the addresses;

a final client of a last circulation destination which has received the communication block last in each of said plurality of groups transmits the communication block to said one client that has portioned the clients into groups; and

said one client that has portioned the clients into groups merges the communication block from said final client of each circulation destination in each of said plurality of groups to form a merged communication block and relays the merged communication block to said server.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information collection and distribution method for collecting and distributing information between a server and a plurality of clients which are connected with a network, comprising:

transmitting a communication block including at least addresses of the plurality of clients and pieces of distribution information to one client of the plurality of clients through said network from the server;

partitioning all the other clients into a plurality of groups and relaying the communication block to one client in each of the plurality of groups;

receiving the distribution information from the communication block via said one client in each of the plurality of ~~clients~~groups, setting a distribution result in the communication block, and circulating the communication block to a next client in an order based on destination addresses;

transmitting the communication block to said one client that has partitioned the clients into groups from a final client in each of said plurality of groups when said final client of a last circulation destination in each of said plurality of groups has received the communication block; and

merging the communication block from said final client of each circulation destination in each of said plurality of groups to form a merged communication block and relaying the merged communication block to said server.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information collection and distribution method for collecting and distributing information between a server and a plurality of clients which are connected with a network, comprising:

transmitting a communication block including at least addresses of the plurality of clients to one client of the plurality of clients through said network from the server;

partitioning all the other clients into a plurality of groups and relaying the communication block to one client in each of the plurality of groups;

receiving the communication block via said one client in each of the plurality of ~~clients~~groups, setting pieces of collection information and a collection result in the

communication block, and circulating the communication block to a next client in an order based on destination addresses;

transmitting the communication block to said one client that has partitioned the clients into groups from a final client in each of said plurality of groups when said final client of a last circulation destination in each of said plurality of groups has received the communication block; and

merging the communication block from said final client of each circulation destination in each of said plurality of groups to form a merged communication block and relaying the merged communication block to said server.

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information collection and distribution system for collecting and distributing information between a server and a plurality of clients which are connected with a network,

wherein the server transmits a communication block including at least addresses of the plurality of clients and pieces of distribution information to one client of the plurality of clients through said network;

said one client partitions all the other clients into a plurality of groups and relays the communication block to one client in each of the plurality of groups;

said one client in each of said plurality of groups obtains the distribution information from the communication block, sets a distribution result in the communication block, and circulates the communication block to a next client in an order based on the destination addresses;

a final client of a last circulation destination which has received the communication block last in each of said plurality of groups transmits the communication block to said one client that has partitioned the clients into groups; and

said one client that has partitioned the clients into groups merges the communication block from said final client of each circulation destination in each of said

plurality of groups to form a merged communication block and relays the merged communication block to said server.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Oanh L. Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-3983. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday, 8:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

O.D  
November 8, 2004

  
**HOSAIN ALAM**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**